Vital signs medical terminology

1) Apical- Pertaining to the apex or pointed end of the heart

2) Apical pulse- pulse taken w/a stethoscope and near the apex of the heart.

3) Apnea- Absence of respirations; temporary cessation of respirations.

4) Arrhythmia- irregular or abnormal rhythm, usually referring to the heart rhythm.

5) Axilla- Armpit, the area of the body under the arm.

6) Auscultation- The act of the listening for sounds within the body.

7) Blood Pressure- pressure of circulating blood against the walls of the arteries.

8)Bradycardia- slow heart rate, usually below 60 beast a minute.

9) Bradypnea- slow respiratory rate, usually below 10 respirations a minute.

10) Capillary Refill- rate at which blood refills empty capillaries. It can be measured by holding a hand higher than heart level, pressing a fingernail until it turns white, and taking note of the time needed for color to return once the nail is released.

11) Cardiac Arrest- Sudden stopping of the heart action.

12) Carotid Pulse- felt along the long carotid artery on either side of the neck.

13) Clinical Thermometers- may be used to record temperatures.

14) Constrict- to get smaller

15) Cyanosis- A dusky, bluish discoloration of the skin, lips, and/or nail beds as a result of decreased oxygen and increased carbon dioxide in the blood stream.

16) Diastolic Blood Pressure- The pressure remaining in the arteries during ventricular relaxation.

17) Dilate- To get larger

18) Dyspnea- Difficult or labored breathing

19) Electronic Thermometers- This type of thermometer registers the temperature on a viewer in a few seconds

20) Fever- Elevated body temperature usually above 101 degrees f, rectally

21) Height- Measurement of the length of the human body, from the bottom of the feet to the top of the head, when standing erect.

22) Homeostasis- is the ideal health state in the human body

23) Hypertension- High blood pressure

24) Hyperthermia- occurs when the body temperature exceeds 104 degrees measured rectally

25) Hypotension- low blood pressure